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In several of the states the women suffragists have undertaken to finance their coming campaigns by collecting waste paper and devoting the proceeds of its sale to the cause. Somebody ought to tip them off to the rich harvest that waits for waste paper gatherers when the various state legislatures clear up, just before adjournment, their supply of unpassed bills.

In some quarters it seems to be regarded as a novel, not to say unique, discovery that the best way to secure the enforcement of a law is to place the responsibility for such enforcement directly in the hands of the man upon whom the constitution places the obligation to see that it is observed, instead of hiring another man to do the enforcement. Nebraska may be making an experiment in thus arranging for the enforcement of her new prohibitory law, but she is willing to undertake it.

When the President's peace note in January was given to the press a panic set in on the stock markets of the country. A day or so later Mr. Roosevelt, running true to form, wept bitterly over the plight of these "small investors" who were ruined in immense numbers, he said. The small investors were all gamblers on the stock market. This is proved by the fact that they were ruined. An investor loses little by a small depreciation of the value of his stock on the market. He still has the stock and the returns on it are practically unchanged. If he sells it he loses only the amount of the drop, and as this is but a small percentage of what he paid for it, he can not be ruined. It is only when he is dealing in margins that ruin can follow. Mr. Roosevelt has had to go a considerable distance in his hostility to anything the administration does in order to find in petty stock gamblers' misfortunes a reason for censure of the President.

FRIENDSHIP

[Below will be found a few lines on Friendship written by Secretary William B. Wilson. They are so excellent in sentiment and so well express a great idea, that space is gladly given to them for the pleasure they will afford to the readers of The Commoner.—Ed.]

"Where shall we look when the heart is sad
With the burden of many cares?
Where shall we turn when the weak and bad
Have covered our pathway with snares?
Where shall we seek for a helping hand
When the body and spirit bend?
Ah! then we must seek for courage and
Unbosom ourselves to a friend.
Where shall we go when the heart is gay
And throbs with a pure delight
That lightens the weight of toil by day
And sweetens our sleep at night?
What shall we do when the battle of life
Goes on with a glorious trend?
Ah! then in the joy of the world's strife
We must share our hopes with a friend."

—W. B. Wilson.

The "Derision" Argument

Some find it harder to face "derision" than to face bullets. Fear of derision has made Christian men and women conform to objectionable social customs. It was fear of derision that forced men into duelling when their better natures told them that they owed a higher duty to family, to country and to God than to the custom that put human life at stake. And so today derision is the weapon used by the militarist against those who plead for peace.

It required moral courage on the part of a few—a willingness to be derided for doing right—to change the sentiment of the country on duelling. But the sentiment has been changed and duelling is prohibited in every state. No citizen feels compelled to accept a challenge today. He defends himself if ATTACKED, but he does not go forth to meet any one on the so-called "field of honor."

Some day, if civilization is to advance, the nation, while defending itself if actually attacked, will feel as little obligated to accept a challenge to war.

And, if it is to come some day, why not now? If some nation must lead the way, why not our nation?

Divine approbation is better than the applause of man. "Blessed are the peace-makers. Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." W. J. BRYAN.

A MAN WHO KNEW

It is said that Napoleon always carried with him a copy of Guibert's "Essai General de tactique" and read it frequently. Among his personal effects when he was captured was the well-thumbed copy, and a passage which he had underscored read:

"Victor and vanquished become about equally exhausted. The total of the public debt increases. Credit fails. Money is scarce. The navies find no more sailors; the armies no more soldiers. Peace is made. Often the source of dispute is not closed, and each of the belligerents remains seated among the ruins, busy paying his debts and sharpening his sword."

That is war as the author of the book saw it, aye, as he knew it. It was war then, it is war now, down to the statement, "peace is made." That event is yet to take place. But as soon as it does take place, as it must surely take place, the nations are likely to find the source of dispute is not closed, and each belligerent is certain to sit among the ruins. Whether they again take up the task of sharpening their swords, will of course remain to be seen, but there are many students who believe that the stoppage of the present struggle will be a temporary affair.

It is with the ruins we are now concerned—a ruined world, so far as Europe is concerned. Millions and millions of dead boys; other millions of crippled and wounded men; impoverished women and children; debts increased; credit failed; money scarce.—Ft. Smith (Ark.) Southwest American.

The Periscope is the name of a new weekly magazine published at Fargo, N. D., by D. H. McArthur. The initial number gives promise of a career of usefulness in the cause of progressive democracy and of real educational value to its readers. There is a vital need of publications of this character in many communities. The Commoner welcomes The Periscope as a magazine with a vision and a purpose.

COMMONER READERS: WILL YOU KINDLY SEND TO THIS OFFICE THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL DEMOCRATIC AND INDEPENDENT VOTERS WHOM YOU BELIEVE WILL ASSIST MR. BRYAN IN DRIVING THE LIQUOR INTERESTS OUT OF THE NATION? MAY HE DEPEND UPON YOU TO DO THIS AT ONCE?

BAILEY'S PLEA FOR PEACE

Congressman Bailey, of Pennsylvania, makes the following appeal in his paper, the Johnstown Democrat:

"It seems to me the high and solemn duty of every American citizen to speak soberly and without passion at this critical juncture. What little influence I may have is being exerted in behalf of keeping the peace. I do not want war. The President does not want it. He is hoping as I am hoping and as the country is hoping, that Germany may not pursue a course which shall bring on a conflict.

"It is to be regretted that the jingoes are appealing to the mob spirit, and are branding as traitors all Americans who are not joining in their clamor for war. If we must have war, let us have one of our very own, not one that was begun by some other nation for its own purposes, and in which we have no concern except as involuntary and incidental sufferers along with other non-combatants. Every injury of which we have complained has been incidental and not deliberate and intentional. No country now at war is our enemy. All of the belligerents want our friendship. Not one of them has thought of doing us harm of set purpose. We have been hurt only because those who are fighting have hit us in striking at the enemy. Not one blow has been aimed at us.

"I have done what I could in my paper and otherwise to counsel deliberation, to discourage reckless and irresponsible outbreaks of feeling, to invoke calmness, to keep down the evil passions which too often mistake themselves for patriotism. As I understand patriotism, it does not necessarily imply the breaking of your neighbor's head or the destruction of his property. I can think of a patriotism which strives to keep the peace, which makes for good will and good understanding, which relegates the big stick to the savagery to which it belongs and which appeals to the higher sentiments of mankind. I am not of those who have been doing their utmost to drive this country into the European shambles. I have felt it to be my highest duty as an American citizen and as a member of congress to use every power at my command to keep us out of entangling alliances and on a footing of amity with all the nations of the earth."

CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR PROTESTS

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 4, 1917.

Frank Buchanan, Washington, D. C. The Chicago Federation of Labor in regular meeting assembled protests against the country taking part in the war of Europe. We demand that American citizens be prevented from entering the war zone.

(Signed) CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR, John Fitzpatrick, Pres. N. N. Nockels, Secy.

Gifford Pinchot, in a speech before the New York young men's republican club, declared that "for the second time within five years the old guard has cost the republican party a national election." This can hardly be defended as a just distribution of the blame. In 1912 the colonel and Mr. Pinchot were against the national ticket. In 1916 they were both for it. This didn't seem to make any difference. Better put it all on Wilson.

Before the passage of the Webb-Kenyon law, by congress, it was argued by Taft, Root and Wickersham, who were opposed to its enactment, that it was unconstitutional. The United States supreme court recently held, by a vote of 7 to 2, that it is constitutional. With the constitutional lawyer it seems to be a matter of attitude towards the principle involved rather than an accurate knowledge of the effect of its application.

The voters of Iowa recently refused to entrust the women with the ballot on the theory that she didn't know enough to use it properly. The other day the stockholders of a bank at Waterloo elected a woman as president. It would be interesting to know how many of those stockholders voted against giving the same woman the ballot.